Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken note of the fact that the existence of non-official members in the formulation of the recommendation is better and more useful than their being consulted after it, more or less, becomes an accomplished fact.

Mr. Presdent: Perhaps I might put the thing in rather a different manner. The proposal is that this official committee should do the spade work and put together the material and save non-official members from the drudgery, so to speak, of going through the particulars of each department and putting them out in a form in which they can be easily understood. What we contemplate is that this official committee should do all that drudgery and produce a scheme on which the non-official members of the whole House itself or a committee of the House may express their opinion. It will be easier for the non-official members to study the proposals in that form and they will have ample opportunity to express any opinion they like about it.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to give the schemes already prepared about two or three weeks before they are actually prepared by this House so that we may have time to study the scheme?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M. B. E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* That can be done. Of course, we have not started the work.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the Government can assure us that the scheme will be ready when the Council meets next?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* That is our aim.

RAT-PROOF GODOWNS—MATTANCHERI

144. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when the construction of a rat-proof godown in Mattancheri was commenced by the Government;

(*b*) at what stage is the work now;

(*c*) what amount has thus far been spent;

(*d*) when it is hoped the work will be completed?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) The work was commenced in Karkadagam 1120, soon after the necessary lands were acquired.

(*b*) The masonry work is nearly completed and the roof work will be begun in Chingam 1122.

(*c*) L. A. charges Rs. 2,20,396—2—0. Works—Rs. 37,324—14—11 up to Edavam 1121.

(*d*) The work is expected to be completed by Makaram 1122.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know Sir, when the construction of rat-proof godowns for mattanchery was contemplated and put into action by the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The necessity of properly constructed godowns was felt for the storage of foodgrains. Food grains are being spoiled by impoper storage. So the Government thought it necessary to construct a rat-proof ideal godown for storing foodgrains and also to show to the public the method by which proper godowns have to be constructed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know Sir, what was the amount sanctioned by the House for this item of work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The estimated cost of the work comes to Rs. 2,16,000. The land acquisition charges come to Rs. 2,20,000.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Was the work, Sir, undertaken in connection with the present food crisis?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, why this has been dragging on like this because the purpose for which it is intended is likely to be over in the near future? We are praying for it.

Mr. President: I am afraid not,

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether this godown after Government use will be disposed of or whether we can get a return for the expenditure incurred?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)* : I may just read out a passage from the report of the food experts of the Government of India in this connection. "In some areas the fear has been expressed that the post-war use of such storage is uncertain and that therefore the policy of a proper construction programme is open to doubt. The recent response of private individuals to official offers to provide controlled materials at standard prices to godowns erected for the use of Governments shows this attitude to be entirely wrong. So long as the population of India continues to increase at the rate of 5 millons per annum there is little fear of superfluous accommodation being constructed for foodgrains. It is hoped that this development will not result in a policy of "let it to the trader" in provinces and states. This could be most unfortunate for it is both desirable and necessary that the Goverements concerned would lead the way and demonstrate what can be done. That a proportion of the local storage would be in Government hands for the present at least has obvious advantages".

Mr. K. T. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram)*: What will be the storage accommodation there?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: It will be about 93,000 bags, about a month's supply to State.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്ബ്: മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽ ഈ വിധത്തിൽ പരിഷ്കരിക്കുവാൻ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് നിർബന്ധിക്കുമോ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Government are advising owners of godowns to make them rat-proof and sanitary.

Mr. M. O. Thomakutty *(Commerce and Industry)*: May I know whether the Government are able to advance funds to the people for the construction of such rat-proof godowns?

Mr. President: I do not think that Government have received any such request.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether advice is being given to construct rat proof godowns?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether any particular individual has acted upon the advice?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: In many cases people have modified their existing godowns so as to make them rat-proof.

ചെയർമാൻ ജി. എസ്സ്. ധാരാസിംഗ്: ഇതു് Central Government ന്റെ നിർബ്ബന്ധപ്രകാരമാണോ പണിയുന്നതു്?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: They have been advised regarding the mode of construction, specification, and so on.

ചെയർമാൻ ജി. എസ്സ്. ധാരാസിംഗ്: ഇതു മഹാരാജാസ് ഹോസ്പിറ്റലിനോട് തൊട്ടു പണിയുവാനായിട്ടു് സ്ഥലമെന്നിനെ ആരാണപദേശിച്ചതു?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The site of the godown was pointed out by the Food Department. They selected a few sites of which this was the best.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, where our present stock of foodgrains is kept?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: In rented godowns.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Necessarily not in rat-proof godowns?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: Not all of them.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്ബ്: ഈ സ്ഥലം തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തപ്പോൾ പബ്ലിക് ഹെൽത്ത് ഡയറക്ടരോട് ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: I think he was consulted. I think he has approved the site.

PADDY PURCHASED IN EACH MONTH

145. Mr. M. O. Thomakutty *(Commerce and Industry)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) how many paras of paddy have been purchased by Government in each month in the current year;

(*b*) what is the special reason for selling mainly raw rice in most of the ration shops in the months of Edavam and Mithunam;

(*c*) did not Government receive complaints even last year also against the sale of raw rice during these months?

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